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plumages and molts of North American species. The second collection belonging to Dr. Leonard C. Sanford, of New Haven, Connecticut, contains about 400 specimens, largely non-passerine birds, and includes rare species especially among the albatrosses and petrels, some of which are not represented in the American Museum collections.

AN arrangement has been concluded between the German and English governments and the Marconi Company by which the weather observations transmitted by wireless telegraphy from ships on the Atlantic will be made mutually available to the English and German Meteorological Offices. Experiments in this direction were made in 1909. The new arrangement is expected to come into force by next year at latest. The observations will be transmitted to the Meteorological Office in London, to the Marine Observatory at Hamburg and to the Meteorological Station at Aachen.

IN Bulletin 420 of the United States Geological Survey, entitled "Economic Geology of the Feldspar Deposits of the United States," by Edson S. Bastin, there are descriptions of the many feldspar deposits in the country and the extent to which the industry has grown. The principal consumers of feldspar are manufacturers of pottery, enamel ware, enamel brick and electric ware. The trade demands that feldspar for use in pottery be nearly free from iron-bearing minerals (biotite, garnet, hornblende, black tourmaline, etc.) and that it contain little if any muscovite. Feldspar is also used in the manufacture of emery and carborundum wheels, as a flux to bind the abrading particles together. Small quantities of feldspar are used in the manufacture of opalescent glass and carefully selected pure feldspar is used in the manufacture of artificial teeth. Some is used in scouring soaps and window washes, the fact that feldspar is slightly softer than glass rendering these soaps less liable to scratch windows or glassware than the soaps in which quartz is the abrasive substance. Two firms in New York and one in Connecticut crush

feldspar for poultry grit and for use in the manufacture of ready roofing. In a number of the feldspar quarries garnets, green tourmalines and aquamarines (beryl) of gem quality are found, but seldom in such quantity as to warrant mining for the gems alone. Mr. Bastin mentions a feldspar quarry in Connecticut where some of the cavities that yielded gem tourmalines were as large as a bushel basket. At another quarry in the state a large transparent green tourmaline about seven inches long was found. This stone is now in the museum of the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn. One pocket in the same quarry contained a large crystal weighing several pounds, of pale-blue to pale-green color, the tints being similar to those observed in some aquamarines. Unfortunately, this crystal was much shattered in the blasting, but the fragments have yielded a number of small cut gems of great beauty.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GOVERNOR FOSS has signed the bill by which the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will receive \$100,000 annually from the state for ten years. By the terms of the measure the Institute will maintain 80 free scholarships to be apportioned among the 40 senatorial districts of the state.

THE California legislature has passed a bill which has been recently signed by the governor appropriating \$25,000 for a soils laboratory building, equipment and other improvements at the Citrus Experiment Station. About \$1,500 of this amount will be used in improving the irrigation system, \$2,500 to complete the title for building site and nursery grounds, about \$2,000 for incidentals, leaving \$19,000 for building and equipment. The work of this laboratory is to be confined to the study of citrus soils from their chemical, physical and biological phases.

THE legislature of Hawaii, just adjourned, appropriated \$75,000 for a new building for the College of Hawaii and \$20,000 for maintenance expenses. The committee of education favored the adoption of the plans that have been drawn up for the development and

embellishment of the campus and grounds. These grounds are located in Manoa, a suburban valley with both mountain and sea views, and comprise about ninety acres. Sixty acres were purchased and thirty acres were set aside by the government. The total grounds with its water has a market value of about \$125,000.

M. ALBERT KAHN, of Paris, who has established traveling fellowships in several foreign countries, has given \$2,500 for such a fellowship in the United States. It is expected that the fellow selected will travel around the world giving a year to the trip. Selection of the fellow will be made by the trustees, who are Edward D. Adams, Nicholas Murray Butler, Charles W. Eliot, Henry Fairfield Osborn and Charles D. Walcott, and they are to choose preferably professors in isolated southern and western institutions.

DR. H. Y. BENEDICT, professor of applied mathematics and director of the department of extension of the University of Texas, has been made dean of the College of Arts.

At the University of Pennsylvania Dr. Richard M. Pearce has been transferred from the chair of pathology to that of experimental pathology, and Dr. Allen J. Smith has been transferred from the chair of tropical diseases to that of pathology, formerly occupied by him.

DR. LUTHER WILLIAM BAHNEY, assistant professor of metallurgy at Leland Stanford University, has been appointed assistant professor of mining and metallurgy in the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University.

DR. CLARENCE A. PIERCE, of Cornell University, has been appointed assistant professor of theoretical electrical engineering at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute to succeed Dr. George R. Olshausen, who has resigned after four years of service.

DR. WALTER S. TOWER, assistant professor of geography in the University of Pennsylvania, has been called to the University of Chicago.

DR. J. FRANK DANIEL has been promoted to be assistant professor of zoology in the University of California.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE LAW THAT INHERES IN NOMENCLATURE

DR. JORDAN'S answer<sup>1</sup> to my inquiry,<sup>2</sup> "Whether there is not a better way of disposing of our nomenclatural trouble than first making it as burdensome as possible and then making it permanent?" is, if I understand him aright, that, alas, there is none; at least, there is none yet in sight, or likely to appear. Hence it were better to take up the burden cheerfully, and begin getting used to it.

Whether one be pleased with this prospect or not, he must be grateful for Dr. Jordan's clear and forceful statement of certain guiding principles. This, for example, seems to me to go to the heart of the matter under discussion:

"A writer dealing with scientific names must either call an animal or plant what he pleases, or else he must conform to regulations inherent in the nature of his work. Arbitrary rules will soon be disregarded. The necessary regulations are those which future workers will approve, and we who are working in the infancy of taxonomy must lay foundations on which the future can build." With this we may all agree; though we may hold somewhat different views as to what is the law that inheres in the nature of our work, and as to what rules are arbitrary.

Surely no argument is needed against a return to the loose nomenclatural methods of the past. I protest against the implication that I have advocated anything of the sort. On the contrary, I have advocated the strictest application of the laws that have been evolved by our past nomenclatural experience. I would accept a list of names exactly as furnished by the best historical knowledge that could be brought into service in producing it. And then, because such a system would be more than human nature can bear, more than language can use, and more than our science can make its best progress under, I would provide for general use a terminology giving expression to the same system in simpler form, with fewer, briefer and simpler names, and

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, March 10, 1911.

<sup>2</sup> SCIENCE, September 2, 1910.